

## **Traditional Use of Medicinal Plants Practiced by Theoraon Tribe of Jashpur District (C.G.). India**

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**Abstract:**-Medicinal plants have been observed to be very effective in the treatment of various ailments. Only few people know the location and uses of most of the plants around them due to inadequate knowledge of their usefulness. An ethnobotanical survey was conducted among the Oraon tribe in the remote villages of Jashpur area during 2011 to 2015. Jashpur district is situated at the eastern part of the state Chhattisgarh, India. In the present study, a venture is being made to explore the use of medicinal plants for nasal congestion, body swelling and inflammation, dermatitis, althralgia and paralysis, epistaxis, earache, constipation and dyspepsia, rheumatic joint pain, cataract, redness and conjunctivities, cuts and wounds, jaundice, spermatorrhoea, leucorrhoea, ulcer, headache, cold and fever, easy and smooth normal delivery, bone fracture, joint pain, cooling of body heat and tonic for strength purpose by the aboriginals of the district. Field study consisted of plant collection and a number of informants such as local traditional medical practitioners, traditional healers and knowledgeable elders have provided the information, in frequent field visits to those places. Total number of plant species belonging to families has been enumerated with scientific names, families, vernacular names and uses.

**Keywords:** Chhattisgarh, Ethnobotanicals, Jashpur, Medicinal plants, Oraon-tribe, Traditional.

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### **I. Introduction**

Rural India is inhabited by number of ethnic groups with their diverse cultural practices, heavily dependent on traditional system of medicine as a part of their life style. Lack of conventional medicinal infrastructure and poor economic condition enable the folk, to practice and inherit alternative systems of medicine to treat diverse types of ailments. Chhattisgarh which has diversified topography, variable climatic condition, vast forest area and large rural population including tribal communities provides an interesting area for ethnobotanical studies. The ethnic groups present in the district are Oraon, Munda, Birhor, Kanwar, Nagesia and Pahadikorwa. The tribal people speak their own language and use their knowledge on traditional medicine as they have inherited from their ancestors.

### **II. Materials And Methods**

**2.1 Survey:** The ethnobotanical survey was conducted to document the ethnobotanical wealth of Jashpur. Timing was adjusted on the basis of flowering and fruiting of different plants, during various seasons throughout the year. The standard ethno botanical procedure was followed as described by Dey and De, 2011a. The plants were identified by informants and the data was documented accordingly. Common plants were taken for preservation and the rare plants were photographed in their habitat. The plants were identified scientifically with the help of flora of the State (Prain, 1903; Paria and Chattopadhyay, 2000 and 2005).

### **III. Results**

The plants are used for medicine are enumerated alphabetically and the family names are given within parenthesis. The local names of the species followed by the uses of the plants are described as follows:

**3.1 Canasiri, Nalado. O, Cana sag (Commelinabenghalensis, Family- Commelinaceae)**

Leaf juice is dropped in nostril to cure epistaxis. Warm leaf juice is dropped in ear to get relief from earache. Fried leaves are consumed to cure constipation and dyspepsia. Warm leaf decoction is given to cure rheumatic joint pain.

**3.2 Gajari or Kuppi (Acalyphaindica, Family- Euphorbiaceae)**

Plant extract is given for mouth ulcer of small babies. Take one tea spoon twice a day for three days.

**3.3 Hathisundha, Hathisur, Hathisund (Heliotropiumindicum, Family- Boraginaceae)**

Leaf juice is dropped into eyes to cure cataract, redness and conjunctivitis. Plant paste is applied on minor cuts and wounds as antiseptic for healing. The Plant paste with Risinus (Castor) oil is applied on wound to cure.

**3.4 Junglipyaz or van kanda (UrgineaindicaRox, Family-Liliaceae)**

Bulb paste with 'mishri' is given for leucorrhoea. 1 spoon once a day for seven days. Plant decoction is used for cooling body heat. Bulb paste cooked in oil of mahua and this oil is used for rheumatism.

**3.5 Koen, Kemuk, Kewa ,Keo, (Costusspeciosus, Family- Zingiberaceae)**

Rhizomes are squeezed and juice is obtained. 2 spoon juice is given for 3 times in a day for the treatment of jaundice. Rhizome paste is applied on the forehead for headache and fever. Rhizome juice is mixed with sugar candy and is taken in the treatment of spermatorrhoea. It is also edible.

**3.6 Lion or Siliyari (Celosia argenteaLinn., Family- Amaranthaceae)**

Tender plants are used as vegetable. Flower's infusion is taken to cure leucorrhoea and uterine bleeding. Whole plant with seeds grinded and paste applied on joints to cure joint –pain.

**3.7 Maruwa or Mandia (Eleusinecoracana, Family- Poaceae)**

Pants are cultivated. Grain powder gives strength to malnourished children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. It is famine food for the tribals. Oraon women weave mat with the culm and leaves. It is edible and used for making local drink.

**3.8 Mundli sag, Gorakh mundi (Sphaeranthusindicus, Family- Asteraceae)**

Frequent in ditches and water logged area, besides ponds and river. Plant is medicine for common cold. Plant is crushed in hand and the juice is used to which relieve nasal congestion. Also the obtained juice is applied on fore- head to cure common cold. It is edible, plant leaves washed properly by crushing and cooked vegetable. It is a tonic and gives strength to body. Leaf paste is mixed with oil and this paste is applied on the affected area of body to cure skin disease.

**3.9 Nakchhikani (Centipeda minima Linn, Family- Asteraceae)**

Fresh plant is squeezed and inhaled to cure nasal congestion. Fresh plant paste is applied externally to subside body swelling and inflammation. Whole plant is cooked in Sesamum (til-oil), filtered and applied externally to cure dermatitis. Seed paste is applied externally to get relief from arthralgia and paralysis.

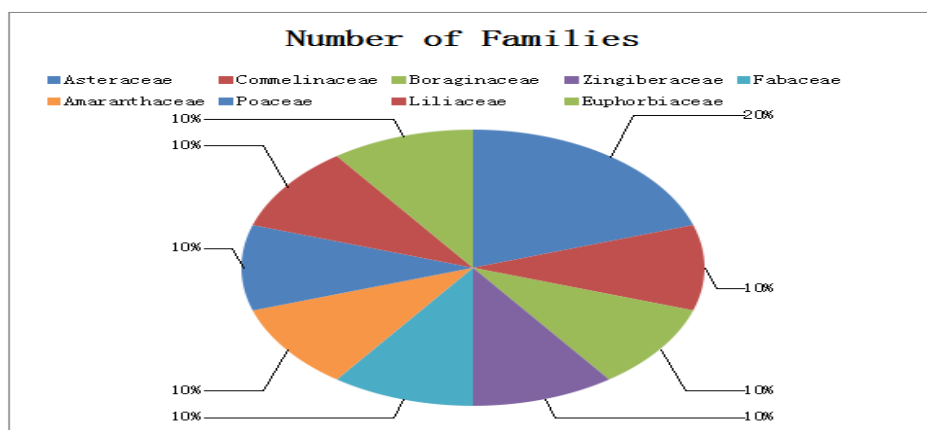
**3.10 Pithwan, Dudhia (Urariapicta, Family-Fabaceae)**

Root paste applied on umbilicus and vagina for easy normal delivery. Soon after delivery, paste should be washed. The stem is folded on itself twice or thrice and is tied with thread and worn around the neck for easy and smooth normal delivery and is thrown away soon after the delivery occurs. 5 gram of root powder and two grams of turmeric powder is mixed and given for 21 days to cure bone fracture. Roots of green plants are tied with red thread and tied on the fore- head to get relief from fever.

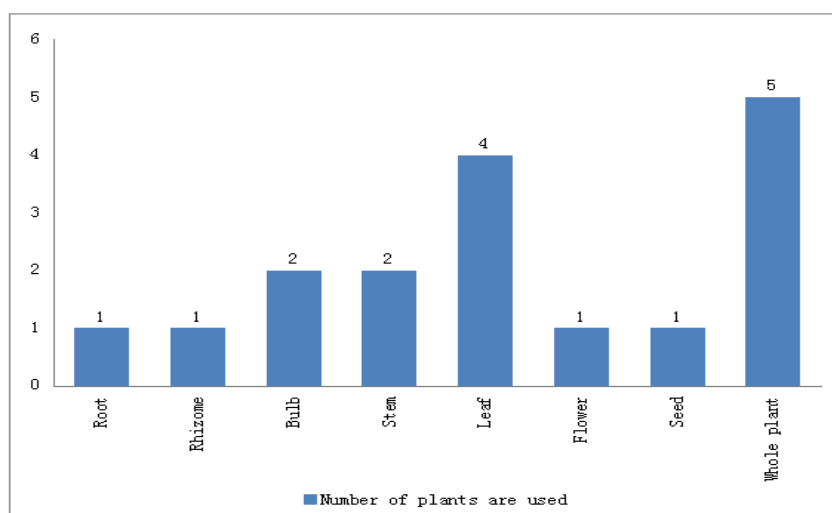
#### **IV. Discussion**

A total number of 10 plants species belonging to 09 plant families are reported with their scientific name, family and vernacular name. Certain botanicals used by these tribals as remedies for various diseases among the plant families, these are listed as follows- the plant species Sphaeranthusindicus and Eleusinecoracana from family Asteraceae and Poaceae are used as to the body and common cold. Plant

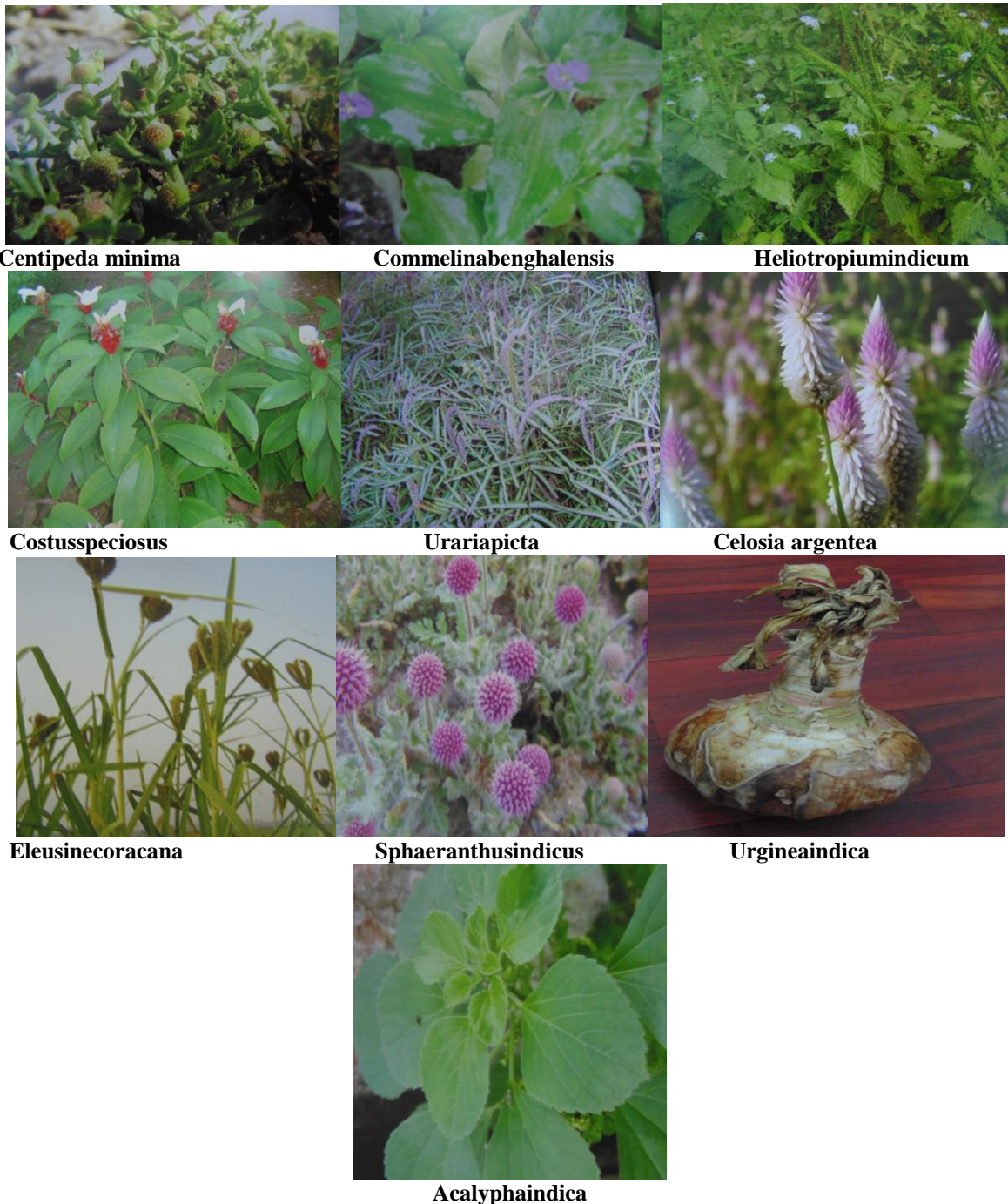
Acalypha indica from family Euphorbiaceae is used for mouth ulcer of small babies. Plant Celosia argentea from family Amaranthaceae is used for leucorrhoea and uterine bleeding. Plant Celosia argentea and Commelinabenghalensis from family Amaranthaceae and Commelinaceae are used for joint pain and rheumatic pain. Plant Urariapicta from family Fabaceae is used for smooth normal delivery and bone fracture. Plant Costus speciosus from family Zingiberaceae is used for treatment for jaundice, spermatorrhoea headache and fever. Minor cuts and wounds, cataract redness and conjunctivevitis are being treated by plant Heliotropium indicum from family Boraginaceae. Treatment of apistaxis, earache, constipation and dyspepsia are being treated by plant Commelinabenghalensis from family Commelinaceae. Nasal congestion, body swelling and inflammation, althralgia and paralysis are treated by plant Centipeda minima from family Asteraceae. Plant Sphaeranthus indicus and Centipeda minima from family Asteraceae. Leucorrhoea is treated by plant Urginea indica from family Liliaceae. General ethnobotanical practices and ethnomedicines to treat human disorders ( Jain and De, 1966; De, 1967, 1979, 1980a & b; Sur et al., 1992a; Chakraborty et al., 2003; Chakraborty and Bhattacharjee, 2006; Gosh, 2008). Kuiriet al., 2002, have reported the medicinal plants are used for rheumatism by the tribals of Purulia.



**Figure 1:** Pie Diagram Showing Distribution of Plant Families



**Figure 2:** Distribution of Plant Parts Are Used



**Figure3:** Medicinal Plants Used By Oraon Tribe

### **V. Conclusion**

From the above discussion, it is evident that a vast majority of plant parts are used for various medical ailments that tribal people of Jashpur have made good use of the knowledge which their ancestors have taught them. These herbal preparations are widely being used due to their easy accessibility and availability and cost of medicine preparation and use. These herbal medications are cost effective and free of any side effects. The new generation, can be enlightened with these age old methods of herbal medicine preparation, so that this precious knowledge is not lost with time and it can be studied for research and much more methods of herbal drug preparation for treating various diseases.

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